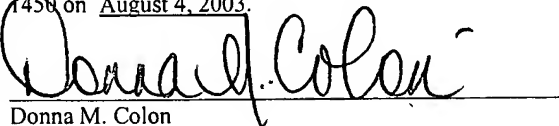


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Donna M. Colon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of	Prior Examiner: Rudy Zervigon
PAVEL N. LAPTEV	Prior Group Art Unit: 1763
Serial No.:	Attorney Docket No. SPUTT-65056
Filed: Concurrently herewith	Date: August 4, 2003
For: SYSTEM FOR, AND METHOD OF, ETCHING A SURFACE ON A WAFER	Los Angeles, California 90045

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a divisional application, based upon Serial No. 09/829,587, filed February 6, 2001.

Please enter the following amendments prior to examination of the application.